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28 April 1967

MEMORANDUM (Internal ONE Distribution Only)

SUBJECT: Elucidation by SAVA of the DCI's Request for five memoranda on the Vietnam War

REFERENCE: Memo of 28 April on "DCI Request for Memoranda on Vietnam War"

George Carver has provided the following enlightenment on the origin and nature of the DCI's request:

1. The DCI has been attending a number of high level meetings in recent days at which he has been convinced that the Agency is likely soon to be asked its views and information on a wide range of matters connected with the Vietnam War. He discussed the matter with Carver, talking from notes he had made on the topics which he thought ought to be covered. He asked Carver to work out a list of subjects for memoranda to be levied on appropriate Agency components. Carver worked out 17 subjects which he has distributed among five elements of the Agency. A memo listing the 17 subjects and the offices to which they are assigned is attached. The DCI has approved the list and assignments.

2. Memos are to be relatively brief, but are to be tailored to the subject. Such consultation among officers responsible for

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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individual memos as is thought desirable should be carried out. Memos will be completed by c.o.b. 12 May, or, if necessary, c.o.b. 15 May. Memos will not be given external circulation by producing components.

3. ONE Topics A and B -- Chinese and Soviet attitudes:

The main policy consideration toward which these two memos are to directed is the question as to what the Chinese and the Soviets would let the US do before they felt they must take major counter-action. Topic B can probably be handled by putting SNIE 11-11 in memo form.

4. ONE Topic C -- The international state of mind on Vietnam:

The DCI wishes this to be "the product of a single pen", an essay rather than an intelligence memorandum examining whether there are trends in world opinion on the war that affect the US in an important way. Only significant opinion is to be canvassed. The question is whether and to what extent the US is damaging itself by reason of its pursuit of the war in Vietnam.

5. ONE Topics D and E -- Communist, Vietnamese, and other

reactions to a continuation of the US effort over the next ~~two~~ years (1) on a larger scale and (2) at present levels: Questions of interest include: Possible counteractions to US initiatives?

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Reactions to the bombing of shipping and mining of Haiphong harbor?
Reactions to a de-escalation, such as the confinement of bombing to
an area south of the 20 degree line? Various permutations of
escalation and de-escalation should be considered; for example,
increasing bombing while holding US levels at present levels, de-
creasing bombing while increasing troop levels, etc.

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Chief, Estimates Staff
National Estimates